THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Bible Material: Micah 6:1-8.
Devotional Reading: Micah 7:18-20.

What Is Good?

Lesson for September 25, 1960

DIFFERENT kinds of Christians argue about doctrine, but they do not argue so much about what is good and right to do. One of the most famous passages in the entire Bible is up for study this week. Some of its great words have been inscribed in Roman Catholic cathedrals, in Unitarian churches, in Protestant sanctuaries. We have to agree with one another here, because the Bible speaks on the point so plainly we cannot dodge it.

Dr. Foreman

What Do We Mean By "Good"?

Everybody uses the word "good" but not everybody stops to think what it exactly means. It certainly means more than "I like it." We know what we call good, but why do we call it that? And is there good which deserves the name whether we recognize it or not?

What we really want to know, when we are serious about all this, is what God calls good. Now this is not a new question. Many centuries ago the prophet Micah faced "good" people who felt that somehow they had failed to please God. They asked, in effect, What does God really want us to do? If we could figure that out, then of course that would be the good, for God is not going to be satisfied with anything less. They were religious enough to see that much, though Micah had to help them over the bridge to a fuller understanding.

The People vs. God

Micah does this dramatically. He imagines a court room as big as all outdoors. Judges are the mountains, the "enduring foundations of the earth," symbols of eternal Justice. God first asks what his people have against him. He reviews their history, reminds them of how his providence has led and protected them so long. Then the people speak—is it a little desperately? What does the Lord desire? they ask. We offer sacrifices, isn't that enough? Is God insatiable, does he demand always more and bigger sacrifices? Instead of a few gallons of olive oil a year, shall we pour rivers of oil on Gods altar? Instead of one ram sacrificed at one time, will he be better pleased with a thousand?

He Has Showed You What is Good

Then comes the voice (some think it is the prophet's, others think it is the verdict of the "everlasting hills") bringing the decision of truth. Some one has pointed out that Micah does not offer a solution of his own. He points (without using their names) to the three other great prophets of his own day, Amos, Hosea, and Isaiah. Amos' key-thought was Justice; Hosea's was Mercy (or "steadfast love"); and Isaiah's was Humility. God has showed you (Israel) by these three prophets what "GOOD" is. You do not need another prophet to tell you. Just these three things: Justice, kindness, a humble spirit before God. If ever any one tries to tell you that religion is so complicated that only professors can understant it, show them this sentence from Micah. If any one claims that religion is a lot of stupid Do's and Don'ts, make them read these simple words.

Too Simple?

Some Bible readers feel a little let down at this point. "If 'good' is so hard for men to define, how much more mysterious it must be as God sees it! Surely there must be something more, something bigger than this! Well, but what is bigger than justice, what is greater than steadfast love, what is better than humility in the presence of God? These are not little items picked from a long list of little items. These are very big indeed. You can live a long life working out the meaning of justice and mercy and humility. Besides, you will notice that Micah does not claim that is all there is to religion. What he does claim is these are the Musts. Without these three, everything else goes sour. On this foundation much can be built. This is the ground-floor of Good. But without this foundation, no house of life can be called good, for it will not stand.

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Hixburg

The people of Hixburg appreciate the effort the road men have put out the pas four months to widen and improve the road from Hixburg to Rt. 460 which leads into Appomattox.

According to Mr. J. D. Doss, inspector, the base construction on this road has been completed.

The carpenters are making headway on the F. M. Alley brick bungalow. Mr. Alley is staying with his daughter Mrs. Pittie Lair, and is supervising the construction.

Mrs. Gladys Baldwin, who has been in Washington Hospital Center since July 11, left the hospital last week. She is staying with her son, Floyd, in Warrenton. She has gained weight and looks fine.

Janet Hix, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson Hix, had her tonsils removed at Southside Community Hospital in Farmville, on Friday, September 9. She spent the night in the hospital, and is getting along nicely at home now.

Mr. Jim Erwin and Linda Gail of Goldsboro, N. C. were weekend guests of his mother Mrs. W. W. Erwin. Mr. Erwin has accepted a position in Knoxville, Tenn., and is moving his family there.

Cadet P. F. C. Kirkle Martin will leave Sept. 23. for V.P.I.

Mrs. R. K. Martin attended the Mary Moore Zone Seminar at Cartersville Wednesday.

Major W. M. Erwin, Jr., who has been stationed in Wiesbaden for three years, has arrived with his family at Langley Field Air Base in Virginia.

His tour in Germany was especially pleasant. He liked being chief of Personal Affairs; also, everthing was cheaper, household help was easy to get, and the schools are excellent.

However, he is looking forward to being in the Old Dominion where he spent much of his youth, and where his boyhood friends live. These are Alfred R. Harwood, Jr. and Jack K. Marshall of Appomattox, and Eugene Sears of Hixburg.

Thursday for the second time during the past 12 months, the Pamplin H. D. Club was entertained in the home of Mrs. Patrick Lair.

On the spacious porch-gathered 16 members and one visitor, Mrs. Alfred Davis of West Virginia.

Mgr. Jim Williams, President gave suggestions for getting the most out 24 hours.

Also, she stated that an Appomattox County H. D. agent, Miss Frances Hatcher, had been appointed, and would begin work-on Oct. 15.

Miss Hatcher has had 11 years of extension work in Georgia, besides several years of religious work in Hawaii.

Mrs. Jim Carson will be hostess to the Oct. club meeting.

Mrs. Lair served macaroon pie, with coffee icecream and hot coffee.

Some of the ladies wanted the macaroon pie recipe which is included.

Macaroon Pie

3 eggs (separated) 1 cup of sugar 1 cup Graham crackers crumble, 1 cup English walnuts, and ½ teasp. almond extract.

Beat egg white stiff and gradually add ½ cup sugar.

Then separately beat egg youks and add ½ cup sugar.

Fold in egg whites with egg yolks, fold in graham crackers crumbs an 1cup chopped walnuts and almond extract.

Grease 9" pie pan and bake at 325 degrees for 30 min. Serve with coffee and icecream.

Oakville

Oakville, Sept. 19.- Mrs. Robert Kyle, of Wingina, Va., spent Monday with her sister, Mrs. Wesley Coleman.

The Young Adult Class of Mt. Comfort met with Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Martin, Jr., Friday evening, and had a brunswick stew. Later in the evening they elected new officers for the coming year.

We are sorry Mrs. Hubert Caldwell is on the sick list. Hope she will soon be well and out again.

Mr. Beryl Phelps had a fall last Friday. The Doctor says he has no bones broken, but stay in bed for awhile.

Mrs. Hubbard Moore is spending this week with her mother, Mrs. O. W. Martin.

Rev. Aaron Smith showed slides Sunday evening at the Mt. Comfort Methodist Church, taken while he was away visiting The Holy Land. They were very interesting and we all enjoyed seeing them.

We are all glad to hear that Mr. Bennett Harding is back at home from the hospital. Hope he will not have to go back any more.

HOLLYWOOD NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Watkins Banton and family of Baltimore, Maryland visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Banton over the week-end.

Visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Austin on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Twyman Baldwin and children. Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Franklin and family and Mr. Monroe Webb and children.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fore, of Lynchburg visited Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Franklin Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Austin visited Mr and Mrs. Norval Bagby Sunday.

Visitors in the home of E. Franglin, Sr. and Mrs. David Franklin and Almond.

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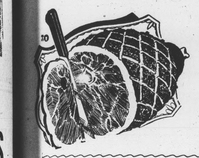

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